

**A. T. STEWART COMPANY STORE****280 Broadway, New York**

Alexander Turney Stewart is generally credited for creating the first department store in the United States. Thanks to him, the status of retailers rose from “monger” to “merchant,” and soon John Wanamaker, Marshall Field, and others were able to stand on the foundations he firmly established. Stewart erected his “Marble Palace” in 1845–1846, and it has been fittingly termed “the cradle of the department store.” Although the top two stories postdate Stewart’s era, the building is otherwise remarkably unchanged from the time he enlarged it in 1850–1853. It now serves as municipal offices.